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Science Olympiad Honors Students and Alumni

By Kylie Hill
Co-Editor-in-Chief

On February 13, 2016, Alumni Crystal Stines Pryor '09 and her husband, Mike Pryor along with current seniors Adriana Lugosan and Peyton Kellenburger were honored at the 26th Annual Science Olympiad hosted by Saint Joseph's College. The student-run Science Olympiad created two new awards in their honor: The Pryor Alumni Award and the Lugosan-Kellenburger Student Award. The awards were given to their name sake's for superior service to Science Olympiad over the years.

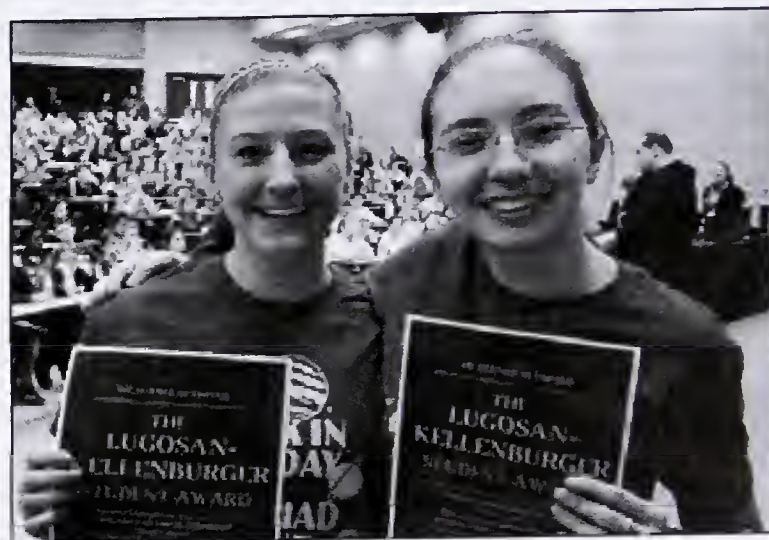
Science Olympiad is a Regional tournament that Saint Joseph's College hosts every year in which high school and middle school teams compete in science and technology events. Putting on the event involves nearly 100 students, faculty, and staff. The tournament faculty directors are Dr. Rob Pfaff, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Chemistry, and Dr. Anne Gull, Professor of Chemistry. The student directors include Amanda (AJ) Volk senior Biology major, Allyson Roller senior Biology major, Alex McCormick, junior Chemistry and Biology major, and Amanda (Amy) Southworth, junior Biology major. Along with the directors, a large number of students volunteer, running and preparing stations for the competitors.

Volk, one of the student directors that asked for the creation of the awards commented that, "The awards were created out of the need to recognize our volunteers and their dedication to this event. With both of these awards, we felt as though outstanding volunteers should be acknowledged for their many years of help."

Volk said that they specifically chose Lugosan and Kellenburger because "Over the past four years they have dedicated countless hours to preparing and participating in the daily events of the Science Olympiad. They were never designated co-organizers of the event, yet they contributed just as much."

Kellenburger has been volunteering with Science Olympiad for the past four years. For the past two years she has helped write tests for the competitors and assisted with set up the night before the event. She commented, "I was completely surprised that they created an award. It means a lot because I really enjoy helping out with Science Olympiad and it was nice that they appreciated my help."

Lugosan, who competed in Science Olympiad as a child, has also been volunteering with Science Olympiad for the entirety of her college career. She commented, "My involvement with Science Olympiad has not



Seniors Adriana Lugosan and Peyton Kellenburger get the Science Olympiad award named after them for their dedication to the tournament. Photo courtesy of Adriana Lugosan.

come without many hours of work outside of class time. I'm happy to volunteer my time to something that I used to find so enjoyable during middle school...All of the prep work is worth it when you see these kids run into the classroom, throw on their goggles, and get to work." I remember how cool it felt to receive an award you worked so hard to prepare for. In the same way, I had that feeling when Payton and I received our award. It somehow makes all of those long nights worth the work."

In terms of the Pryor Alumni Award, Crystal Pryor '09 had been volunteering for Science Olympiad since her freshman

year at Saint Joseph's College, and then recruited her future husband, Mike Pryor, to volunteer as well. She also served as the co-director for two years. However, even after graduating, they have come back and volunteered with Science Olympiad.

Volk commented that "Since her graduation Crystal and Mike have been constantly involved. Crystal voluntarily spends the day in the general chemistry lab and Mike spends his day in the recreation center. They both have contributed countless hours and support after graduation. They exemplify what it means to be 'Involved for Life.'"

SJC Hosts Annual STEM Networking Event

By Lauren Grasham
News Writer

On the evening of Tuesday, February 23, 2016, Saint Joseph's College hosted its third annual STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) networking event from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M. in the Core Education Center. This allowed students who are majoring in those fields to talk to successful alumni about future possibilities. These fields include Computer Science, Math, Biology, Chemistry, Bio-Chem, Forensic Science, Medicine, and Wildlife. The night for everyone began with a presentation from Professor of Biology and Environmental Science Dr. Bob Brodman in the Shen Auditorium. Following the speech, everyone who attended broke off into smaller groups. The groups

were determined by the students' majors or areas of interest. More presentations, as well as one-on-one meetings, were given within these specific areas.

Sophomore Biology major Sydney Strang and junior Biology major Lydia Raderstrof were two students who attended the event with hopes of obtaining more information on what to do after graduation. "I'm looking forward to learning about grad schools and how to be interviewed," Lydia said as she explained what she wanted to learn from the event. They both agreed that they were eager to listen to the lectures about schools and life after Saint Joseph's College. They were also interested in networking with the

alumni that were there as well. Many of the presentations and discussions focused on these two areas, giving students advice on how to apply for grad school as well as successful interview tips for both schools and jobs.

"I'm interested in what they have to say," said freshman Biology-Forensics major Kristina Steward when she was asked about her expectations for the night. "My professors also highly recommended that we come tonight," she added. Professors from all departments were strongly encouraging their students to attend, since this event would give them many opportunities to learn interviewing strategies and learn about grad school. Freshman Biology-Forensics major

Samantha Hittson also mentioned how much her professors emphasized the importance of going to the event. "I had some professors that were giving us extra credit if we came tonight," she said. Since it was their first year at the networking event, the freshmen were a little unsure of what to expect. However, all that were there had a positive outlook on what they would walk away with when the night was over. "I'm also interested in what I could get out of this," Samantha added. The yearly occasion was a huge success, as it was expected to be, with many students from a variety of majors excited to learn about and prepare for what lies ahead.

“More Love Letters” Club Comes to Saint Joseph’s College

By Natalie Dziadosz
News Writer

At Saint Joseph’s College, another new club, More Love Letters (MLL), has been established with the goal of improving campus culture and supporting those with mental illnesses.

Doesn’t the world need more love letters? An organization based out of New York sure thinks so. Moreloveletters.com says, “I started More Love Letters three years ago and we’ve become the only global organization out there that blesses individuals--young and old-- with bundles of love letters during a time in need.” The woman who started it all, Hannah B., had just graduated from college and was dealing with depression. She began writing in her notebook and tearing the pages out to leave them around New York City. The idea was to support others who were going through similar mental health issues.

Laura Wagner, Director of Counseling Services and the original club advisor, had this to say: “When I was first approached by Hannah Wallace with this idea, I liked the intention but didn’t realize the impact this effort could have on our campus and globally. She shared a video, which you

can view on the More Love Letters website. I began to see the potential for improving campus culture, fulfilling the College Mission and breaking down the stigma of mental illness. I realize there are more needs than letters of support, but it is a beginning of a cultural change.”

Wagner commented that the number of students suffering from mental illnesses on college campuses is on the rise: “Feeling isolated and hurting is a shared experience for many. I have struggled with a way to decrease the stigma of mental illness. More students are entering college with the stress of coping with mental illness along with the challenges of college. Complaining and criticizing can be easy. The impact of these behaviors on people needing support can be devastating. This campus should be a haven for safety, security, and caring. This letter writing could be an easy start. Thank you, Hannah, for bringing this movement to campus.”

Hannah Wallace, a junior English major, is the organizer of the Saint Joseph’s College chapter. “My hopes for MLL is that people realize how powerful words and letters can be. What we really are aspiring to do is just change people’s days, months,

and years; they may remember that kind letter from a stranger for the rest of their lives.”

Once the chapter has enough letters written, the goal is “to distribute them to different places (Rensselaer, Indianapolis, Chicago) and to continue spreading more love letters,” Wallace states.

Moreloveletters.com, says “We really want you here. In fact, we need you here to help us make this whole ‘life’ thing better for others. Life is hard. And yes, it breaks your heart. But you don’t have to go it alone. We’re right with you.”

Wallace is hoping that “the club continues to grow at Saint Joseph’s College.” In order for the chapter to accomplish its tasks, they need a large number of members to write letters.

If you are interested in joining More Love Letters, contact Hannah Wallace at hww1218@saintjoe.edu. The next meeting will be held on March 17, 2016 at 7:30 pm in the Courtney Auditorium. There has also been a recent change in advisors; Professor Jon Nichols, Assistant Professor of Core and Writing Specialist, is now the club advisor.

Annual Phone-a-thon Commences with even Bigger Goal

By Ana Lara
News Writer

“Hello. It’s me, Saint Joseph’s College!” Saint Joseph’s College is hosting its annual Phone-a-thon fundraiser, in which students come together to raise money for the College.

Phone-a-thon has been hosted for the last 14 years. Each year at the beginning of February, students volunteer and then go into an interview process where they are selected by Beth Graf, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Advancement, who organizes the event. The students are selected on their ability to interact with potential donors over the phone. The volunteers then call parents, former parents, alumni, and friends of the college to ask for donations to help raise money for scholarships, including athletic and academic scholarships.

This year’s goal is 160,000 dollars and as of Thursday, February 25, 2016, 110,000 dollars has been raised. Last year’s goal was 140,000 dollars. Clearly the bar has been set higher this year.

Several students, who

volunteer with Phone-a-thon, commented that they enjoy being able to interact with Saint Joseph’s College supporters.

Brooke Major, sophomore Biology and Chemistry major, said “I have enjoyed calling supporters of Saint Joseph’s College because these calls are the calls that help students like me on scholarship keep pursuing their dreams here at Saint Joseph’s College.” Mikayla Rodriguez, sophomore Biology major said, “It has been so fun to do this. The supporters of Saint Joseph’s

College are so nice, and knowing that they want to help us is reassuring that I’m going to such a great school.”

Saint Joseph’s College appreciates those family and friends donating their time and money to help the students.



Above: Jack Miller '19, Gage Jenson '19, and James Gillespie '19, pose for the camera while calling for donations during the 2016 Phone-a-thon. Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland.

2016 Election Update: Campaign Goes National



By Jose Arteaga
Political Columnist

On Tuesday, March 1st, the 2016 Presidential campaign goes national with 12 states casting votes across the country. The Republican candidates are frantically campaigning trying to make their case for why they should be President heard.

Super Tuesday is the make it or break it day of the election season, with 12 states up for grabs. A huge chunk is in the “Bible Belt” with voters from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia all rushing to the polls. Other states up for grabs are Vermont, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Colorado, Virginia, and Wyoming. These states will be crucial to many candidates.

This article will come out on Thursday, but let’s see if I can predict some of the outcomes. Let’s start out with the Republicans. Donald Trump will be a big victor on Tuesday night. At the start of his campaign, Trump made multiple visits to the South. He was there in the fall of 2015 and made multiple visits after his Nevada win. Therefore, I predict that Trump will win the Bible belt. I also believe that Trump will win Texas against Texas Senator Ted Cruz. Marco Rubio will have a strong showing though in the northern states. Marco Rubio can potentially take Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Minnesota. I believe that Sen. Cruz will have a good night but

will struggle coming in 2nd or 3rd in the races. When Super Tuesday comes to an end, I believe that we will see Ohio Gov. John Kasich and Dr. Ben Carson drop out of the race.

On the other side, Super Tuesday also plays well for the Democrats. Hillary Clinton has spent a good number of years there when her husband, Bill Clinton, was Governor of Arkansas. After the South Carolina primary it is hard not to say that Clinton will sweep the Southern states. Bernie Sanders, on the other hand, will gather up support from the north. Bernie can win Minnesota and his home state of Vermont, but Massachusetts can go either way. I’m leaning more towards Clinton though.

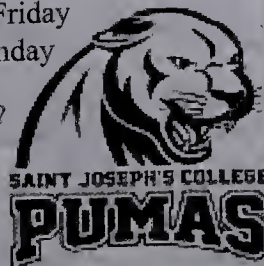
So where does Super Tuesday put us? If Trump does well on this night we can see him keep moving forward and eventually becoming the nominee. If Clinton does well, we can see her picking up momentum for the month of March. Bernie Sanders will definitely struggle in the delegate race, but will continue to stick around.

What to look out for after Super Tuesday is Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz. Rubio needs to win states if he wants to continue. If he comes in second or third in any contest, he will lose a lot of momentum. The same goes for Sen. Cruz. This election has been interesting to say the least. We started with 22 candidates for the presidency. After Tuesday we can see about 5 moving ahead.

Upcoming Puma Events!

- March 3 - Student Success Center Mapworks
- March 3 - Blessing of Drexel Hall
- March 4 - 12 - Spring Break
- March 17 - St. Patrick’s Day
- March 17 - More Love Letters Meeting.
- March 25 - Good Friday
- March 28 - Easter Monday

Want to get the word out about your event? Email the date and name of your event to Kylie Hill at khw10051@saintjoe.edu or Casey Snow at csnow@saintjoe.edu!



“Extinguishing the Bern” Part 1

By: Steven Nickel
Opinions Writer

In this election cycle, it has become increasingly popular, especially among young people, to say that they are “Feeling the Bern,” in reference to Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders. Bernie Sanders is a self-proclaimed Democratic Socialist which essentially means he is a socialist that believes in free elections. His platform consists of offering people a lot of free stuff, including health care, college, and paid leave, as well as raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. At face value, all this stuff sounds great, but then you look at the details of what these plans actually entail and the nightmare begins. So in order to cover all these topics, I will be writing this article in parts with a new part coming out in each new issue of The Observer. We will begin by looking at taxes. Bernie Sanders’ plan raises taxes on everyone with the lowest increase to anyone being a 2.2% raise while the “top 1%” who make over \$10,000,000 would see their tax rate increase from 23.8% to 64.2%. In addition, he proposes raising taxes on capital gains, which will discourage people from investing in the economy. The Tax Foundation, an independent agency, reported that all of these tax measure would have a negative effect on all incomes and lower the long term national GDP by 9.2%. Also, for the people who think you can just increase taxes on the rich to pay for things, you are delusional. The rich are not stupid and will leave the U.S. for countries that don’t tax them outrageously, leaving us high and dry as well as losing some of our smartest citizens. It also destroys the American dream of making it to the top because if you just get taxed more, the more money you make, then why should you work hard to make more money? This concludes part one -- tune in next week to learn more about how people who are “feeling the Bern” are clueless as to how a country works. If he is elected the entire country will get “Berned.”

John Kasich’s Plans for Parenthood

By: Steven Sewell
Opinions Writer

On Sunday, February 21, John Kasich, Governor of Ohio and 2016 presidential candidate, signed a bill to defund Planned Parenthood in his state. It’s downright nerve-wracking that he is considered a moderate in comparison to the other Republican presidential candidates. It’s also irritable that in 2016, the Republican Party is seen as the party that champions small government, despite many (such as Ted Cruz) wanting to control marriage, merge church and state, and expand the military. A pro-life stance can be rooted in good intentions, but it tiptoes a line with misogyny. Someone who is not a misogynist can make a case against abortion, but it’s obvious that a notable percentage of people that would make such a case pursue their agenda to the point of discrimination. Too many pro-life advocates want to defund, restrict access to, and make abortion illegal. In the case of John Kasich, it is misogynistic to restrict access to abortion, and it is certainly not small government. Restricting access to abortion disregards bodily integrity, reducing women to human incubators, rather than people who can make their own decisions about their own body. There is absolutely no reason that 60-year-old men should be in control of the reproductive organs of women half their age. I’m glad that Kasich has essentially no chance of getting elected, but candidates such as Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio have a decent shot at the White House and could severely undermine women’s rights. If you’re a single issue voter, or even for smaller government, I would strongly advise voting Democrat, but I’m sure most people already know that.

Procrastinator’s Paradise

By: Juliana Pater
Opinions Writer

I have been going to school for 17 years. And for 17 years I have been fighting the urge to procrastinate. Okay, that is an exaggeration. Maybe 11 years? Nonetheless I have always been a procrastinator. I admire people who wisely spend their time working on projects and papers months, weeks, or even days in advance. Meanwhile, I stress out, get anxiety, but eventually turn everything in on time. However, the amount of stress I willingly put myself under is sometimes unbearable. Furthermore, the work that I did procrastinate on has been some of my best. So, I started to wonder...could it be that procrastination lends itself to higher creativity and a better work ethic?

Why do our professors give us projects and papers months in advance? So that we don’t stress out? So that we are prepared? I believe that the benefit of receiving a project or paper in advance of the due date is that our minds can dwell on the topic and the information that we are given. Of course, many assignments require one to do extensive research which can take quite a bit of time. However, I feel as though people who procrastinate make better products. We unconsciously give our minds time to wander, to imagine the possibilities. Procrastinators think beyond the black and white of things. They give themselves time to look at all perspectives.

I think instead of fighting my urge to be a procrastinator, I am going to own up to this trait. I may do things last minute, but that doesn’t mean that they are not done well. I give my mind time to dwell on a subject matter before I complete the task. In addition, I have the motivation to get it done. So I encourage you, fellow college students to go ahead and watch the next episode of your favorite show on Netflix, and let your mind wander. Don’t let yourself be trapped by deadlines and minutes you have to finish an assignment. Let yourself wait to the last minute and see where it takes you. Maybe college is the procrastinator’s paradise. Oh and if you get stressed out, don’t worry you’ll get it done, eventually.

Online Core Lectures

By: Kertney Bronzya
Opinions Writer

For a couple weeks, the Shenn Auditorium was under construction, and we had to watch Core lectures online. To be honest, I have not even heard a complaint about Core lectures being online. I enjoyed being able to watch lectures in advance if I was going to be busy or if I wanted to sleep in that extra hour before my Core Discussion. Getting to sit in bed or at my own desk in pajamas was wonderful compared to waking up at 9 to attend the 10 AM lecture.

One of the main things I loved about having Core lecture online was being able to pause the video if I hadn’t finished writing down the notes I needed. I never felt rushed to get caught up with writing things down because the slides were moving too fast or the lecturer was talking too fast. I enjoyed being able to pause the video to continue my thought process of what I was writing down. I actually learned a lot more by being able to slow the process down. I felt like I was retaining more information from the lecture because I was better able to listen to what the lecturer was saying instead of rushing to get my notes written before the slide switched.

I understand that the point of the Core Building was for Core. They also invested more money into the Auditorium for remodeling. Lectures can be great to attend, but sometimes the gathering isn’t needed. I enjoy being able to see the lecture in person; however, when there is only a movie to watch, I don’t understand why a link cannot be sent out to the students in that Core Lecture. I’d rather watch the movie in bed instead of going to the Shenn only to find out it’s a movie. I think a happy medium for this situation would be to let students have access to the file where Core lectures are kept. The lectures are already being recorded. I understand that there are DVDs in the library with lectures on them, but most people don’t even have a DVD player in their laptops anymore. Everyone can have access to the videos if we were only given access to the file. Then we could easily watch the lecture again in case we fell behind during the lecture we attended.

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We, the newspaper staff of *The Observer*, while exercising our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, promise to adhere to the highest journalistic standards. *The Observer* will not print articles, editorials, or other material that misquote or misrepresent members or organizations within the Saint Joseph’s College community. While constantly striving to meet these goals, we can and will print retractions amending or remedying any problems brought to our attention.

By Deadpool
Guest Writer

What is this movie about and what's so great about it? Want to know about the sheer number of bad jokes and bloody violence that will numb your skull? Hey! This is me telling you about my review. Let me introduce myself. I am Deadpool and this is my story. Not just any story though. This is a love story. I win the heart of this beautiful lady and it's buying the hearts of millions. So you heard that this movie is different from all the other superhero movies? You heard right. I am no superhero. I am...adorable. Yeah, that's right. I am the supreme Drama and the Queen of Diva. I bet you're wondering why I am giving my own review? I can't get some idiot college kid to do it for me; they might do it wrong! Anyway, this movie is about crime. Crime's the disease -- meet the cure. Okay, not the cure, more like the topical ointment to reduce the swelling and itch. Whatever they did to me made me totally indestructible. I didn't ask to be super, and I'm no hero, but when you find out

your worst enemy is after your best girl, the time has come to become one. It started when I was just a regular guy. You know? I made my living by beating and maiming other guys worse than me. Then everything changed when two things happened. One is the love of my life, and the other is cancer. So I went to find a cure for this disease, right? I had to do it for my girl; she is all that I have. I head out to this shady organization and boom! I am cured of El Cancer, but with a price. I am indestructible, which is pretty sweet, especilly when everybody's trying to kill you. That's when all hell runs loose. One other thing -- I heard that I can't curse in this review. Well, that's too bad. I was going to tell you all the &!@#ing we've done. With life, my girl, myself (It felt so good), the bad guys (wasn't so good for them), and to give you my viewpoint.

That's right! I am a loving little mother#@*%\$^ and if you think this is not going to be the best movie you are wrong! I am

CAPTAIN DEADPOOL...okay, just, just Deadpool. Anyway, I can't give too many details of the plot of the movie, but there's blood, lots of blood. That's why I made my suit red. So they don't see me bleed, and I can't have it green or animated. Not cool. So, for all the viewers out there that can't watch this because it's R-rated, don't go. *Whispering* Just kidding, go and have the best time of your life with your girlfriend. There is suspense, drama, killing, and my immense love for Francis. So here's to all of you who've seen my movie. See it again. To those who have not seen the movie, see my movie, *and* see it again. Here's from your friendly neighborhood Pool guy. Peace!



Above: A poster for Deadpool.
Photo courtesy of Google Images.

The House on Mango Street

By Jennie Weer
Features Writer

As a senior, I've grown in and out of my love for books in the last four years. I read constantly before college. Once texts were required every day, I found myself drifting away from reading for fun and dreading the next book for Core.

Thankfully, my English minor renewed my love for literature and I came to know authors that otherwise, I wouldn't have discovered. One of those authors is Sandra Cisneros. She is most famous for her short story collection, *The House on Mango Street*. In one of my classes, I read these short stories of a girl who grew up in Chicago in the 1960's.

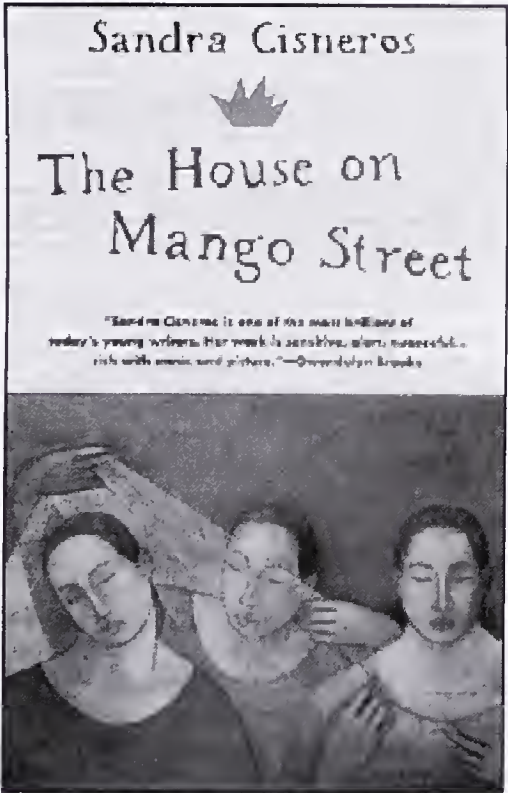
Over Christmas break, I browsed through BAM!, determined to read as much as I could on my own terms. I found Cisneros' collection of short stories and had to have it.

Titled after her featured story, *The House on Mango Street* is full of an inside look to Sandra's childhood. Most of the stories are 2-3 pages, making it an easy read between classes or right before bed! She tells stories of her family, the struggles she had making friends, and how difficult it was to grow up as a Latina in a big city. It ranges from funny, to relatable, to intense. Sandra Cisneros created a realistic, honest view of what it is like to grow up in a home that constantly has chaos, but her words connect the reader to the images she sees.

Anyone can like this book. It's easy to read, full of symbolic stories, and gives a glance to a different, non-idealistic upbringing. There are 46 short stories in this collection, as she touches on subjects such as poverty, sexism, and racism -- all things she was subjected to growing up.

In addition to *The House on Mango Street*, Cisneros has penned nine other books that are similar. This non-fiction writer was also the first Hispanic-American to receive a publishing contract.

If you find yourself intrigued or bored, and want to look up a creative author, I recom-



Above: Cover art of the novel *The House On Mango Street*. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

mend Sandra Cisneros. In her words, "I don't know what makes a bestseller, but I do know this: A good book doesn't care. What matters is that the story casts its magic, that it silences you into listening, and moves you to laugh -- and even better, to cry and then laugh -- and a long time later, to haunt you. Long after you have closed the book, it's what haunts and stays with you that matters, for then the story will have done its work."

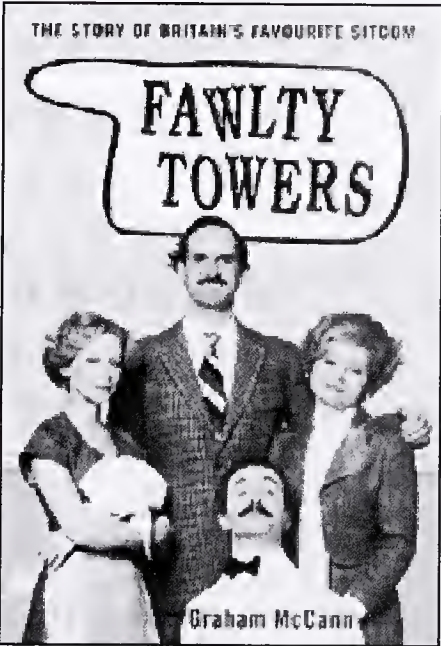
Fawlty Towers

By Ashley Brinkman
Features Writer

If you like classic, British, 70's television, then *Fawlty Towers* is the show for you. The series is set in Fawlty Towers, a fictional hotel in a seaside town in England. The plot is centered around the tense, rude, and manic owner Basil Fawlty, who is played by John Cleese (you probably know him from his Monty Python days), his bossy wife Sybil, comparatively normal chambermaid Polly, and hapless Spanish waiter Manuel. In the two seasons the show aired, it attempted to show how this strange group of people run the hotel amidst ridiculous situations and an array of demanding and eccentric guests.

John Cleese came up with the concept for *Fawlty Towers* while he was filming for *Monty Python*, when they stayed at a similar hotel in which *Fawlty Towers* is based on. While the other members of the Pythons soon vacated the hotel after an awful first night, Cleese extended his stay and took notes on the daily happenings of the hotel. When Cleese first pitched the show to the BBC, it was rejected for being too stereotypical of television at the time.

However, this is quite the opposite in my opinion. The show's many misadventures and mishaps are highlighted by Cleese's manic personality. The humor in the show is derived from the verbal and physical abuse the employees of the hotel put upon each other and the guests. The show has a classic sense of humor that could be



Above: The cast of *Fawlty Towers*.
Image courtesy of Google Images.

perceived as cliched, but with the chemistry of the cast, they squelch any thought of that after the first five minutes of watching.

The show is full of small details that can easily be missed, but for those viewers who catch those details they are getting an extra laugh. One such detail is that of the sign in front of the hotel. In the first episode of the series the sign simply states Fawlty Towers, though the letters are a bit crooked. Throughout the series the name of the sign changes due to lost letters or rewording until at one point it says Farty Owls instead of Fawlty Towers.

Unfortunately for those of us here in the United States, our Netflix does not have the rights to *Fawlty Towers*, but if you know how to get around that you can certainly watch *Fawlty Towers* on British Netflix.

Taylor Swift's 1989

By Vivian Myers
Features Writer

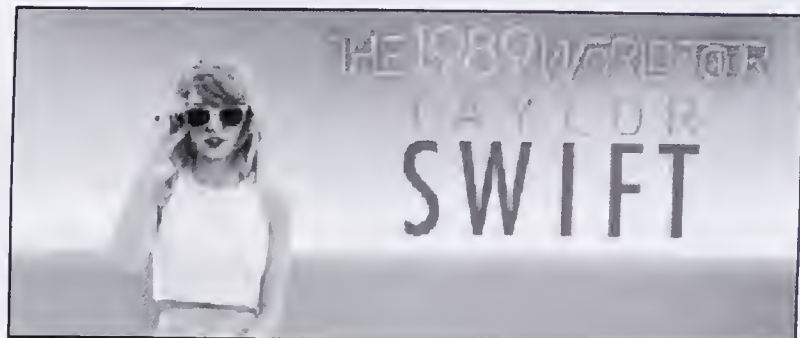
We all know that Taylor Swift's songs are, without a doubt, about a previous boyfriend and how, why, and when they broke up. She's always singing of her break ups and many people believe it to be something of an annoyance. Her constant

complaining through her talents causes people to question if she's worth listening to. Of course, not all of her songs can be pin pointed to a specific person. In fact, she produced an entire album that no ex-boyfriend can be pin pointed to.

Big Machine Records produced Swift's 2014 album,

1989. Although this album was released on October, 27th 2014, there are individual songs that are still extremely popular to this day. They circulate the radio stations as if they were just released this year.

1989 is believed to be a story through a span of time of Taylor Swift's Romantic life. Each song on the album tells about a different action that was committed. It starts with "Welcome to New York"; the meaning of this song is that this is where the story starts. "Blank Space" talks about a girl that everyone knows, but in all reality no one person truly knows her. When you listen to "Style" you hear the story of a girl who's heart belongs to the man that was unable to stay. "Out of the Woods" explains how this couple loved each other recklessly while "All You

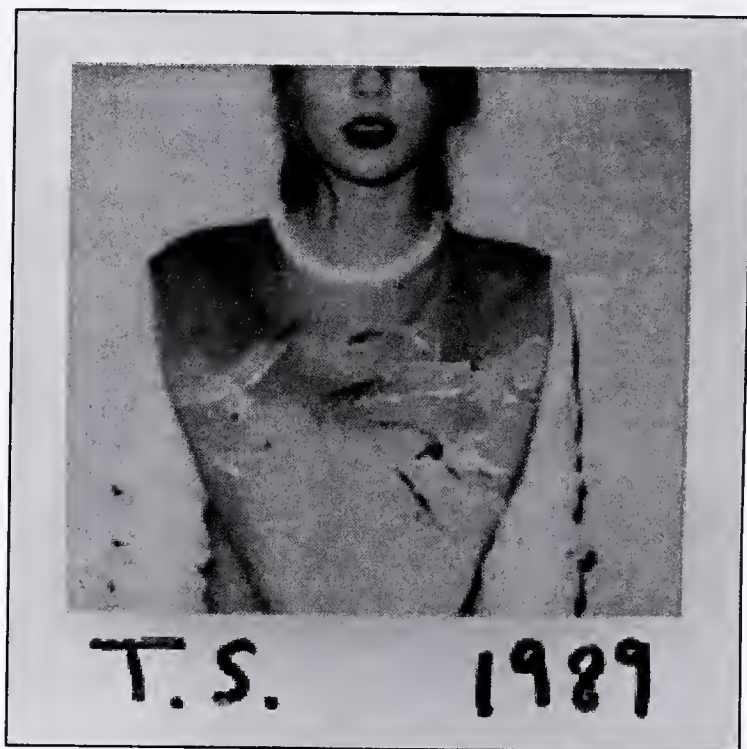


Above: Promotion poster for Taylor Swift's world tour of her album 1989. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Had To Do Was Stay" is about how they paid the ultimate price. "Shake It Off" explains how she got over him and "I Wish You Would" tells how he drives past her house every night. "Bad Blood" is about how she made friends and enemies alike. "Wildest Dreams" is when she was only a wonderful dream for him. "This Love" reveals how timing is a funny thing and "I Know Places" is about how everyone is watching and waiting. "Clean" talks about how even though she ended up losing him she found her self and that is what truly matters.

This album is not meant to be read like all her others. This one contains a fluid story instead of individual break-ups. 1989 tells the aforementioned love story through the songs like chapters in a book.

As stated by theguardian.com, 'The Tale chronicles Swift's move to New York during a broken and ill-timed relationship that 'everyone was watching', and in true Swift fashion, it concludes with a moment of self-discovery – the overall theme of the album.' Although there are many who think that Taylor just uses her musical talents to complain about her break-ups and tell the world her secrets there are those that connect with what she says. Taylor Swift and her songs have been there for many break-ups and helped young girls with troubling life situations.



Left: Cover art of the album 1989 by Taylor Swift. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Revenge of the Witch

By Cameron Adams
Features Writer

For anyone looking for a chilling story that is at the same time interesting and fast-paced, *Revenge of the Witch* is the perfect book.

This is the first book in the critically acclaimed Wardstone Chronicles by Joseph Delaney. It offers a good mix of fast-paced action and chilling spookiness. Also, add in a great cast of characters that are creative and compelling and you have got a instant hit.

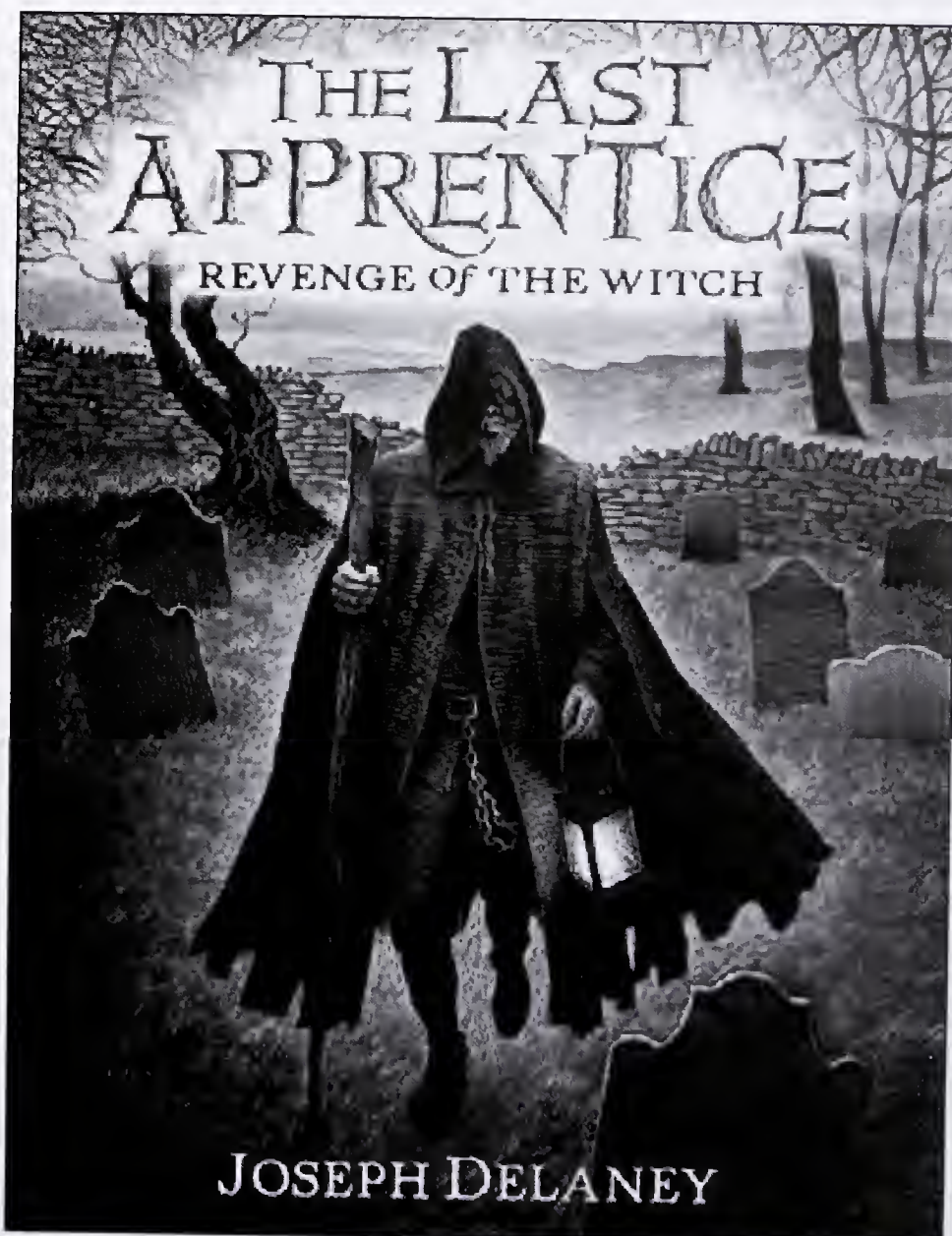
The main character, Thomas Ward, is a very intriguing character who is at the edge of reaching his destiny and finds it as the apprentice of the county Spook, John Gregory. But it is not a normal apprenticeship. He has to battle with the Dark. That means protecting the entire county from Boggarts, Witches, and Ghosts. Tom tries to navigate through the new challenges and experiences that come along with his new apprenticeship. He comes in contact with Alice, Bony Lizzie, and the fearsome Mother Malkin. When the Dark begins to challenge him closer to home, he has to rely on his training to stay alive. Can he survive the encounters and can he survive long enough to make it to his destiny? John Gregory is the type of character who you would want as your teacher, whose years of experience have made him the best at what he

is and the person who you would benefit learning from.

This book is fast-paced and action-packed. The whole book manages to grab your attention and hold on throughout the entire book. The action keeps coming and the thrills and chills do not stop. Tom's training and his lessons are exciting and informative, and the encounters with the Dark are even more so.

This series may be more known because it inspired the movie, *Seventh Son*, starring Ben Barnes, Jeff Bridges, and Julianne Moore. The movie was entertaining, but it lacked some of the best aspects that were offered by the book.

If you are interested in a good spooky book that will hold your attention from the moment you open it, then this is good book for you. And even better, this is just the first book in a thirteen-book series, where each one of them is even better than the last and will hold you for as long as it takes for the story to be completed. Check it out. It's worth it.



Above: Cover art for *Revenge of the Witch* by Joseph Delaney. This is the first book in the *The Wardstone Chronicles* series. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

TGIBS: Thank God It's Baseball Season

By Christine Manika
Sports Writer

ALLENDALE, Mich. – It's always a good day when you know that baseball is back in action. The Saint Joseph's College Pumas had their Opening Weekend on the road in Nashville, Tennessee versus the Maryville Saints and Trevecca Nazarene. The first game took place on February 19th against the Maryville Saints with the final score of Saints 6 and Pumas 5. The same day, the Pumas then faced off against Trevecca Nazarene with the final score of Trevecca Nazarene 11 and Pumas 1. Opening Weekend then wrapped up on February 20th with the Pumas looking to have redemption against the Maryville Saints. The Pumas got even and took home the win. Final score Pumas 10 and Saints 5.

This past weekend, the Pumas were back on the road in Evansville, Indiana facing off against the Truman Bulldogs. The Pumas had a strong start during the start of the game; unfortunately the strong start did not lead them to victory. The Pumas could not hold the Bulldogs during the last 3 innings. Garrett O'Neill got the Pumas going with a single to bring in Brenden Rivera. Riley Benner then followed up with a double; Pumas led to 2-0. Ryan Keck then hit a single to double the lead 4-0.

The Bulldogs scored 2 unearned runs in the bottom of the third. During the 4th, the Pumas fired back. O'Neill,



Pictured: Garrett O'Neill '16
Photo Courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland

Benner, and Keck hit back-to-back-back doubles to give pitcher Zachary Aring a 6-2 lead. Aring's outing lasted 5 innings, allowing 4 runs, one earned on 7 hits with a strikeout.

The Pumas led 7-4 heading in the sixth when Rivera hit another run by a sacrifice fly to score Jacob Bigos, who led off the inning with a double. With two outs, O'Neill produced another two-out RBI to give the Pumas a 9-4 lead after six.

Taking over for Aring, Tasker Strobel came in the bottom of the 6th and got the job done. But the 7th inning after an opening strikeout altered the story. Bulldogs scored 4 runs on 6 hits and an error making the score 9-8 SJC. A pair of errors in the

8th inning led to the Bulldogs scoring 3 more runs taking an 11-9 lead. Final score Bulldogs 11 Pumas 9. After the Bulldogs, the Pumas then faced against the Ashland Eagles and University of Missouri St. Louis Tritons on Sunday.

The Pumas played against the Eagles in a very close match up with the final score Pumas 4 Eagles 2. The highlight from this game includes freshman pitcher Quinn Snarskis completing his 1st collegiate game. Snarskis allowed only 2 unearned runs on 5 hits. Snarskis also earned 5 strikeouts and recorded his first career win. Quinn Snarskis did give up a run during the 2nd inning, but it was smooth sailing for

Snarskis throughout the rest of the game. Congratulations Quinn!

The final game of the day was against the Tritons, who came out on top against the Pumas 11-8. Offense started early for both teams, especially for Josh Handzik hitting a homerun during the bottom of the inning. Tied at the top of the 2nd inning 3-3, Handzik came through with an RBI to get the ball rolling.

This game was a hard fought battle with many highlights, but the Pumas fell short against the Tritons. The next game the Pumas will begin their Florida journey on March 6th. Good luck and catch some rays Pumas!

Puma T&F Compete at GLVC



Pictured: Phillip Thompson receiving Field Athlete of the Year
Photo Courtesy of SJC Athletics

By Brian Eurtion
Sports Writer

KENOSHA, Wisc. – The men and women's track and field teams competed in the GLVC Conference Championship Meet hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Parkside on February 27th and 28th. The men scored 42 points and placed 6th out of 14 teams. The women scored 13 points and placed 11th. Coach Bill Massoels said, "Our effort was there, and that is what we can control. We left some points on the table on the first day, but came

back with a stronger day two to close out the weekend."

The men's team had two individual champions in Phil Thompson and Sanjay Daley. Thompson won the triple jump by a foot and a half and improved his school record to 49'3". Daley won the 55-meter dash with a time of 6.42. This time converts to a 6.90 for the official 60-meter dash.

Rounding out the scoring for the men were Demar Malcom who placed 5th in the 200-meter dash with a time of 22.24, Brian Eurtion placing 6th in the mile with



Pictured: Heather Monk receiving first place for weight throw
Photo Courtesy of SJC Athletics

a time of 4:23.07, Justin Hays who placed 7th and 8th in the 5000 and 3000 meter run, respectively, Tevin Riddle who placed 4th in the high jump and 5th in the triple jump, CJ Eikum placed 8th in the triple jump, and the 4x400 meter relay team placed 7th.

Heather Monk led the women's team with a 3rd place finish in the weight throw with a launch of 52'4". Monk also scored points for the lady pumas with a 6th place finish in the shot put.

Rounding out the scoring

for the Lady Pumas were Nikki Thiede and Allie Zimmerle with a very impressive performance in the 3000-meter run and high jump, respectively. Thiede's time of 10:14.76 was a mere 8 seconds off of a Division 2 provisional mark. Zimmerle's jump of 5' 1.25" tied her personal best.

The Pumas will be back in action on March 26 as they open their outdoor season with the Gene and Rose Edmonds Invitational. This meet is at Saint Joe's so we are looking forward to having your support.

Upcoming Events

- March 5th**
Softball vs Shippensburg University in Clermont, FL 3:00 pm
- Softball vs Winona State University in Clermont, FL 5:00 pm
- March 6th**
Softball vs Minnesota State University - Mankato in Clermont, FL 1:00 pm & 3:00 pm
- Baseball vs Slippery Rock University in Winter Haven, FL 2:00 pm & 5:00 pm
- March 7th**
Men's Golf vs Dave Falconer Classic in Russellville, AR
- Men's Tennis vs University of Charleston in Hilton Head Island, S.C.
- Women's Tennis vs Ashland University in Hilton Head Island, S.C.
- Baseball vs University of Minnesota Duluth in Auburndale, FL 10:00am & 1:00pm
- Softball vs California University of Pennsylvania in Clermont, FL 1:00pm
- Softball vs Trevecca Nazarene University (Tenn.) in Clermont, FL 3:00 pm
- March 8th**
Men's Golf vs Dave Falconer Classic in Russellville, AR
- Men's Tennis vs King University (Tenn.) in Hilton Head Island, S.C.
- Women's Tennis vs King University (Tenn.) in Hilton Head Island, S.C.
- Baseball vs Northwood University (MI) in Auburndale, Fla. 4:00pm
- March 9th**
Men's Tennis vs Davis & Elkins in Hilton Head Island, S.C.
- Women's Tennis vs Davis & Elkins in Hilton Head Island, S.C.
- Softball vs University of Sioux Falls (S.D.) in Clermont, FL 1:00pm
- Softball vs Wayne State College in Clermont, Fla 3:00pm
- March 10th**
Men's Tennis vs Newberry College in Hilton Head Island, S.C.
- Women's Tennis vs East Stroudsburg University in Hilton Head Island, S.C.
- Men's Tennis vs Defiance College in Hilton Head Island, S.C.
- Softball vs Urbana University (Ohio) in Clermont, Fla 9:00am
- Softball vs Grand Valley State University in Clermont, Fla 11:00am
- Baseball vs Winona State University in Auburndale, Fla. 6:00pm

Puma Tennis Serves Up New Season

By Megan Fernandez
Sports Writer

The Men's and women's tennis team's seasons are finally in action with both teams already experiencing some wins and losses. The Men's tennis team have had two matches in the past week, starting with Ferris State February 20th. The team had a hard loss to Ferris State, losing 9-0.

The Bulldogs came out hungry for points and grabbed some big ones early on, winning the doubles points to open the match taking the #1 spot with a score of 8-2, the #2 spot with a score of 8-3, and a #3 spot with the score of 8-2.

Next, came the singles competition beginning with senior, Andrew Klump who pushed his first set 7-5, but then fell in the second set 6-0. The rest of the pumas singles matches fell to bulldogs with Reid Imel falling 6-4, 6-4 at #1. While Sam Shamas took a 6-0, 6-2 loss at #3.

At #4, Moritz Gitsy took a 6-1, 6-2 loss, while Valentine Meier fell 6-1, 6-0 at #5. Lucas Jessen fell in straight sets closing out

singles competition at #6.

But with the season continuing the Pumas looked to use the lost as motivation against their next competitors Purdue Calumet. The Pumas competed against Purdue Cal. at home this past Saturday, February 27th.

The men's team earned their second win of the season defeating Purdue Cal 9-0. The Pumas began their shutout win with destroying the Peregrines through doubles competitions, dropping one set. Reid Imel and Andrew Klump won the number one match 8-0. Moritz Gitsy and Valentine Meier pick up a point for the team with a victorious number two match up.

Samir Shamas and Joe Comerford teamed up to win at number three doubles 8-1. SJC won their remaining three matches to complete the shutout. Imel won the number one match 6-0, 6-2. Klump won at number two over Patrick Mudd 6-2, 6-1. Lucas Jessen won the number six match 6-1, 6-1.

The Saint Joseph college women's tennis team also competed against Purdue Cal at home Saturday. This game was

personal for the girls team looking to avenge an early loss. Saint Joe competed against Calumet back in September and lost 7-2. However, PUC squeaked out the win with a close 5-4 win.

Purdue started off the meet with a 2-0 lead winning both doubles competitions. Pumas Tate Hickey and Mary Huffine won the number one match 8-4. However, coming right back the Peregrines won the pivotal number two match 8-6 and number three match 8-4.

Hickey won her number two singles match 6-2, 6-3 while Huffine won the number four match 6-4, 6-0. Lauren Jakubczyk earned the team a point in the number five match. PUC closed out the match with wins at number one, three, and six singles.

Next up the men's team competes all Spring break starting March 7th against University of Charleston at Hilton Head Island. The Women's team will also be traveling to Hilton Head Island, South Carolina and their first competitors will be Ashland March 7th.



Pictured: Moritz Gitsy

Photo Courtesy of Saint Joseph's Athletics

Softball Fights

By Makayla Copeland
Sports Writer

This past weekend the softball team traveled to Duncan, South Carolina. The three days of play the Pumas played in a total of seven games.

In the first day, the Pumas played two games. In the first game, the Pumas played against Lander University, taking a 14-2 loss in 5 innings. The two runs came from Junior Ashley Whittaker and Freshman Morgan Poeppel with home runs.

In the second game on Friday, the Pumas played Augusta University. The Lady Pumas came out in the second game in hopes of a better turn-out, but fate was not in line with their hopes. The Pumas lost 11-2 in 5 innings for the second time Friday night. Scoring for the Pumas was junior Bri Wagner and Senior Kylie Hirschak.

Saturday the Pumas played in three games. The first game was against the University of North Georgia (UNG). The Pumas came out with a new outlook on the game. The Pumas came out with a new outlook on the game. In the first inning, the Pumas came out scoring a 3-run home run hit by Whittaker. Whittaker sent senior Haley Miller and freshman Zoe Anderson home. In the third inning, Senior Ka Davis hit a sacrifice fly ball to center field to send Miller in, making the score 4-0. In the 4th inning, the Pumas scored two more runs by senior Myranda Eckberg and Wagner. UNG responded with a six run comeback

in the 4th and 5th innings, making the score 6-6. In the 6th inning, UNG committed two errors, allowing sophomore Melanie Smith, making it a 6-7 game. The 7th inning brought pressure on the Pumas as UNG was not giving up without a fight. With that they won with the go ahead run with a 8-7 win over SJC.

For the second game on Saturday, the Pumas played Wingate University. The Pumas battled taking this game into extra innings. In the start of the game, Wingate scored one run to take a 1-0 lead. Their lead stayed until the 5th inning when the Pumas responded with Eckberg adding a run to the board. But Wingate responded with three more runs, making it a 4-1 game. The Pumas did not settle. In the 6th inning they scored three more runs by sophomore Jordan Schneider, Davis, and Eckberg. However, Wingate took the game with a 5-4 win.

The last game of the day was against Lenoir-Rhyne University. This was the Pumas first game, not putting runs on the board with a 5-0 loss.

The final day of games was Sunday. The first game of the day was against Catawba College. The Pumas lost their first game 7-0. The second game of the day was a rematch against Wingate University, but the Pumas lost 4-0.

Next week, the Pumas leave for Clermont, Florida. The first game will be against Shippensburg University.

Men's Basketball Season Close

By Madyson Anthony
Sports Writer

Our Saint Joseph's men's basketball team played UNdy with heart last Thursday, but suffered an 86-73 loss. Although they tied in steals and led in free throw percentages, they still struggled from the field.

The Pumas who are 9-19 overall and 4-14 GLVC, shot 27% from the field in the first half, but their impressive defense kept the Greyhounds struggling and within single digits. Halfway through the opening half UNdy held an 18-16 lead but the lead eventually grew to nine points (28-19) with a three-pointer with seven minutes left.

Dawson Gore responded with a three-pointer of his own and

then converted two free-throws to bring the Pumas back to 28-24. At the two minute mark the Greyhounds had another lead that reached nine points (39-30). Jordan Seele converted two free throws and the Pumas had a 39-32 deficit at the end of the half.

UNdy's lead grew to double figures in the second half as they led 56-42 within the first few minutes of the second half. The Pumas' shooting progressed for some minutes after that but the Greyhounds kept responding with their own shots every time. Dawson Gore, Chris Nunn, and Davious Webster each hit three-pointers in the rally and with eight minutes left the Pumas trailed 70-60.

The Pumas cut the Greyhounds lead to eight points shortly thereafter, but that's where the run ended. Gore finished with 15 points leading the Pumas. Freshman Nick Jeffers added 12 points and seven rebounds.

Overall, the Pumas finished with a better record this year than last, and with a team of six freshmen they have plenty of room for improvement and growth. With the experiences and lessons of this season, the Pumas have nowhere else to go but up and next season will be nothing less of exciting.



Pictured: Men's Basketball Team. Photo Courtesy of SJC Athletics

the back page

Creative Corner

The Books

By Hannah Wallace

Maybe, one day, things will have changed
Maybe the earth will soften and we won't be afraid
Maybe the sun won't hide and we'll finally look
Up at the clouds emerging like a book
Maybe, one day, we'll read each one we find
But, as for today, we'll choose to hide
We'll only read the titles; ignoring the sublime
We'll just look through the shelves
We're terrified

Love is our second language
Judgment is our first
Vulnerability is madness
We're afraid to get hurt
But don't we all want
Someone who loves our whole book
Who reads our worst chapters and isn't afraid to look
At each page we've torn out, but won't stop reading
Until they know all our secrets, every little meaning
And even then, they promise to stay
Writing our story with us
Maybe, one day

Until then, my only wish
Is that each shelf you approach
You see it as a gift
You open each book and give it a chance
I hope you read a few chapters
I hope you get to the last
If it isn't your favorite,
Put it gently on the shelf
Remember each book - is unlike any else
I hope you take every piece of every book and don't forget
That the beauty of seeing is life's greatest gift.

And so maybe, one day, we'll open every book
We won't read the titles or judge based on look
We'll just trust the fact that
A book so great was made
And maybe, we will
Maybe we'll do that one day.

Would you like to have your poems, short stories,
or works of art published on the Creative Corner?
All you have to do is send your submissions to
glv9696@saintjoe.edu and wait for an upcoming
issue to see your work displayed!

He Stops the Rain and Calms the Storm

By Gloria Michelle Leonard

He stops the rain and calms the storm
The moment he walks through the door.
He wipes the tears and dries my eyes
Knowing, without asking, why I've cried.
He sprinkles stars and holds the moon
When morning comes it'll be too soon.
He has my heart and all my love
He's my penguin-- my turtle dove.
He gives me warmth and pulls me near
Without words he says: "I'm here."
He does not speak and does not smile
But I've come to love him all the while.

Oil Painting by Katie Davisson



A Good Day

By Katie Davisson

There are good days and there are bad days
Then there are the days in between
And today was a good day, because I didn't think of you.
I saw how brightly the sun shined, and I didn't think of you.
I noticed the birds and the trees and not once did I think of you.
Until I started thinking about how I hadn't thought of you.
I know tomorrow will probably be a bad day.
But hey, I'm trying.



Ink Drawing by Gloria Michelle Leonard